GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
ADEQUATE BANDWIDTH FACILITY .
RUPCHAND PAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to expedient and dependent the Internet facilities in the country adequate bandwidth is urgently required;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the compatible bandwidth availability in respect of different countries like USA, UK, France, Russia, Germany etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Adequate bandwidth is a pre-requisite for reliable Internet facilities.

(b) The steps taken by the Government in this regard are:

1. ISPs have been permitted to set up International Gateways after obtaining security clearance.As regards use of satellite medium for providing international bandwidth for Internet, ISPs have been permitted to obtain bandwidth from satellites, which are coordinated over India.

As regards use of submarine cable medium for providing international bandwidth for internet, Government has announced that private ISPs will be allowed, either singly or jointly, to set up their own landing stations anywhere in India in collaboration with international undersea bandwidth carriers.

2. VSNL has already procured about 310 Megabits per second (Mbps) international bandwidth for Internet and is taking steps to procure another 500 Mbps shortly.

3. Department of Telecom Services(DTS) is executing a plan to provide bandwidth on demand upto theDistrict Headquarter level by March 2001 subject to availability of resources. DTS has already commissioned 14,000 Route Kms. Of 2.5 Gigabits per second (Gbps) capacity Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH)ptical fibre network as a part of Sanchar Sagar Phase I project covering 28 major cities. In addition, 3000 Kms. Of similar network is likely to be commissioned by August 2000 along with associated lower capacity SDH optical fibre networks.By March 2001, it is planned to commission another 32 rings of 2.5 Gbps capacity as a part of Sanchar Sagar Phase II Project. This may ensure availability of adequate bandwidth in the country for Internet requirements.

4. Telecom Commission has constituted high level Standing Committee to oversee the provisioning of leased circuits and bandwidth requirements of the Industry.

5. DTS plans to establish a National Internet Backbone(NIB) for carriage of internet traffic.

(c) As per available information, other countries including India are having access to following international bandwidth availability:

COUNTRY	AVAILABLE BANDWIDTH
USA	200 Gbps
UK	120 Gbps
JAPAN	160 Gbps
CHINA	55 Gbps
INDIA	13 Gbps